



# Wing Tips

## 108th Air Refueling Wing New Jersey Air National Guard April 2004 Volume 4 Issue 4



### Change of Command info

The New Jersey Air National Guard Change of Command ceremony will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2004 in hangar 3333 at 10 a.m. Uniform of the day is acceptable.

For more information on the retirement dinner or the change of command contact Mrs. Connie Cisek at 609-562-0901.

### New Harassment Hotline

The Department of Defense recently established a toll-free telephone number for individuals who want to contact or provide information to the Department of Defense Task Force on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault. The number, 800-497-6261, is staffed from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. EST, Monday through Friday. The DoD's hot line will supplement those previously established by each of the services.

### DAG pins-on

You are cordially invited to attend the pinning ceremony of Col. Maria Falca-Dodson to Brig. Gen. on Saturday, April 17, 2004 at 1 p.m. to be held at the New Jersey National Guard Headquarters Drill Floor.

### Volunteers needed

Volunteers are needed to work the Recruiting Station at the Moorestown Mall on Saturday and Sunday of the UTA from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Uniform of the day will be Blues. If interested please contact Master Sgt. Robert Tibbets at 609-754-2868 or Maj. Alfreda Borden-Ealy at 609-754-6081.

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photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz

Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin (right), former NJANG Commander, bids farewell to Master Sgt. Michael Edmiston (left), Aircraft Maintenance Squadron First Sergeant, during his out processing and final tour of the 108th Air Refueling Wing.

## NJANG Commander Farewell

by Maj. Gen. Clark W. Martin  
NJANG Commander

I always told myself that if I ever became nostalgic for drill weekends, it would be time to consult a psychiatrist. So here it is: the last weekend I'll ever wear the uniform, and...would you mind passing me the psychiatric directory?

Actually, I stopped enjoying rolling out of bed at the crack of dawn on Saturday mornings when there were no more F-4s on the ramp to strap into. I was so privileged to fly this fighter – both on active duty and in the NJANG – and to be associated with the people who flew them, maintained them, loaded the weapons, worked in life support, walked the flight line and made sure that we who flew the jets were worthy of their trust.

Major General Ed Philbin recruited me into Headquarters in 1991. Instead of

coming to drills in a flight suit to practice Pave Spike (laser guided bombs), I reported in blues to a desk at Headquarters to help plan the future of the NJANG. This won't last very long, I told Dee Ann, my wife. Who wants to sit behind a desk forever?

I then learned so much more about the NJANG that I didn't know when I was flying. I discovered your talent, patriotism, commitment and dedication. You are an amazing group of people.

It's been an honor to serve with three commanders, Major Generals Ed Philbin, Jim McIntosh and Craig Cosgrave. Each had a different leadership style, and each faced different challenges. During their tours of duty, the Air National Guard

See Farewell page 5

# Commander's Column

by Col. Michael Cuniff  
108 ARW Commander

It's been about six months since the change of command ceremony and now seems like a good time to let you know what I'm seeing and thinking.

I have seen many outstanding professionals doing a job well done. From the deployments to the IG Exercise, I have seen pride and professionals in action. Even in the recent Aircrew Standardization, Evaluation and Training Visit (ASEV), outstanding programs and performers were recognized. The AMC team was here late last month and mentioned the following: Lt. Col. Steve Amisano, Maj. Matt Paternostro, Chief Master Sgt. Jim Monaco, and Senior Airman Angie Chantre as for their Exceptionally Qualified Inflight evaluation; Lt. Col. Kevin Keehn, for his outstanding contributions to the Stan/Eval Administration and Review & Certification Board Programs; Maj. Bruce Hamilton, for the Wing's VFR/TAD Program; and Maj. Ken Meyer and Master Sgt. Darrell DelleSite for their work in Tactics.

These experiences are serving us well as we prepare for the Unit Compliance Inspection next February. I fully expect each office to be working their respective checklists now – some agencies have over 1,000 questions to answer and this cannot be put off until the last minute. Each UTA, I monitor the status of every agency's progress in answering the questions. I expect to see blue and red, but mostly light green in the next two months. If you are unfamiliar with the colors system, open up the checklist now.

The UCI looks at more than our home station mission. The inspectors evaluate common core areas, such as aircrew life support,

## KUDOS

Congratulations to the graduates of the Non-Commissioned Officer's Academy on April 1, 2004:

Tech. Sgt. James Johnson, 227 Special Operations Flight  
Tech. Sgt. Henry Scott, 108 Security Forces Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Gregory Stevens, 108 Civil Engineer Squadron  
Tech. Sgt. Curtis Thivierge, 108 Maintenance Squadron

Congratulations also to the Quarterly Awards winners:  
Senior Master Sgt. Johnny Newkirk, 108 Wing Staff  
Staff Sgt. John Lacomia, 108 Wing Staff  
Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz, 108 Wing Staff



photo by Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Knox

Senior Master Sgt. Paul J. Kasica (left), 108th Engineering Superintendent, presents a flag to Col. Michael L. Cuniff (right), 108th Air Refueling Wing Commander. The flag was flown over Baghdad International Airport, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in honor of the 108th Air Refueling Wing.

financial management and supply in addition to Government Travel Card program and OPSEC. These areas are just as important as the functional mission areas identified. Work these issues hard.

The second area I would like to address is recruiting and retention. Our recruiting team is doing a fantastic job, garnering the top earning ANG recruiting production in the Northeast Region again this year. I had a chance to stop by the Mall Recruiting Office and I encourage each of you to stop by for a few minutes when you are in the Moorestown area. Retention is a tougher nut – our force is mature and we have a large percentage eligible for retirement. I need

each first-line supervisor to talk with your folks and help them be as successful as they can be – they are our future.

The last comment I want to make is to Maj. Gen. Clark Martin. The 108th has had a true friend under his leadership of the New Jersey Air National Guard. For the past 23 years, he has served along side you and I in the 141 Tactical Fighter Squadron, the deputy commander, HQ NJANG, the Assistant Adjutant General – Air, and as our commander of the NJANG. I know all of you offer Gen. and Mrs. Martin the very best wishes for the future.

### 108th Air Refueling Wing Editorial Staff

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# Odds and Ends

## NJNG Youth Camp

Applications are being accepted for this year's youth camp at the New Jersey National Guard Training Center in Sea Girt, N.J. The camp will run from Aug. 15-21, 2004. Activities include, but are not limited to, sports, arts and crafts, swimming, archery and camping. Children 9-12 may apply as campers, youths 15-17 as junior counselors, and adults 18 and older as counselors. For more information and the application log onto the NJNG Family Program Web site at [www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth\\_camp.html](http://www.state.nj.us/military/familysupport/youth_camp.html).

## AF One Source

Air Force One Source is a live 24-hour-a-day helpline for Airmen and their families implemented by the Air Force in an expanded effort to take care of its own. The beyond-the-gate support and referral service will address personal and family support needs from agencies that offer support with childcare, finances, legal matters, deployment and other related issues. Certified counselors are available to answer questions, provide information or guide airmen and their family members to the appropriate resources.

Air Force One Source is available anytime by phone in the United States at 800-707-5784, internationally at 800-7075-7844, internationally collect at 484-530-5913 or at [www.airforceone.com](http://www.airforceone.com). The Web site will require customers to log on by using "airforce" as the user ID and "ready" as the password.

## Vacancy Announcements

The Public Affairs Office has vacancies for an information management journeymen, with maximum grades of Staff Sgt. This position is open to current New Jersey Air National Guard members. Members interested in applying should prepare a military resume, to be received by April 17, 2004, and contact Maj. Kris Frazier, 108 ARW Chief of Public Affairs, at 609-754-4173 to schedule an interview.

## Come fly with us!

The 108th Air Refueling Wing has resumed its orientation flight program. New unit members, spouses of military members, and civilian employers of Guard members are invited to participate in an air refueling mission. To apply, visit [Y:/show/108pa/flight](http://Y:/show/108pa/flight) requests for the applicable form. Submit forms to 108ARW/PA via email [pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil) or by fax at 609-754-4460.

## Wing Tips deadlines

The deadline for May *Wing Tips* is April 30. Articles and photos should be emailed to: [pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil). Please ensure digital photos are a minimum of 400 dpi and send the raw file. Photos and graphics need to be in .jpg or .tif format. Articles must be in Word format. Deadline for June *Wing Tips* is May 24 and July *Wing Tips* is July 1.

## What's happening

### April

April 17	NJANG Change of Command at 1000
April 21	Administrative Professionals Day
April 22	Earth Day
April 22	Bring Your Child to Work Day

### May

May 8	V-E Day
May 9	Mother's Day
May 22	Armed Forces Day
May 31	Memorial Day

### June

June 6	D Day
June 14	Flag Day
June 20	Father's Day
June 21	Summer begins

## Condolences

Condolences to the friends and family of retired Senior Master Sgt. George E. Laird, former Fire Chief of the 177th Fighter Wing. George passed away at home with his family by his side Saturday, February 28, 2004 at the age of 69. Memorial donations may be made to S.O. Hospice, 1140 Rte. 72 W., Manahawkin, NJ 08050.

Condolences also to Master Sgt. Tania Prairie, whose father, Siegfried Pusch, died in late March. The family is requesting that instead of flowers, a donation in the name of Mr. Pusch be made to either of the following:

American Cancer Society, ATTN: Web  
PO Box 102454  
Atlanta, GA 30368-2454

or

Dogs For The Deaf, Inc.  
10175 Wheeler Road  
Central Point, OR 97502

## Wing Tips online

*Wing Tips* is now accessible to unit members, retirees and the public on three different Web sites.

It will be placed on the following public Web sites – <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/mcguireairguardians> and <http://www.108arw.af.mil>.

Unit members will also find it on the members-only Web site at <http://108mbr.af.mil>.

Printed color copies will be distributed to buildings 3305, 3306, 3324, 3333, 3369, 3390 and 1818.



# The Ins and Outs of an Orientation Flight

by Senior Airman Chivonne Green  
Public Affairs Augmentee

As I stood on the flight line waiting for our visitors to board the bus, I couldn't help but giggle to myself when I noticed how excited they were as they ran toward the bus clutching their boxed lunches, meanwhile the wind whipping against them. Once everyone got on the bus I shouted out "Now was that a great experience or what?" Everyone from the president of a corporation to the youngest JROTC cadet yelled back, "Refueling Rocks!" I replied, "Well then mission accomplished. It is part of our job to make sure we get people from the outside to come in and get all excited about what we do here at the 108th Air Refueling Wing in order to educate them on the importance of our mission. Since we have done that today, I would like to thank all of you for participating in our orientation flight program."

Many people would agree that one of the best incentives offered by the 108th ARW would be the orientation flight program. The flights within the program include incentive flights for our members, spouse orientation flight for unit member



Courtesy photo

spouses, ESGR flights for unit member employers and civic leader flights for community leaders. JROTC cadets are also welcome to fly within this program. The orientation flight program is a valuable tool to the Air National Guard and the Air Force. It allows the commander to provide a visible reward for outstanding service to our military personnel and the people who support them during mobilizations, deployments, annual training and even unit training assemblies (UTAs).

An orientation flight is performed in one of our KC-135E *Stratotankers* during the training mission of its' receiver, usually

an F-16 from our sister flight, the 177th Fighter Wing in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. The missions are generally within the unit's normal local flying area, starting and terminating at McGuire. The flights are flown at about 25,000 feet along the coast of New Jersey and are fairly short, lasting approximately two hours. There is no special selection for the crewmembers that are chosen to fly, however, they must be mission ready. You can definitely expect to meet the pilots as well as the boom operator as you cycle through the flight deck and the boom pod to see the refueling.

It doesn't take much to get on a flight. It simply requires a little paperwork, and before you know it you'll be flying high in our KC-135s for an ride you'll never forget. It is important that members take advantage of this opportunity either for yourself, your spouse, your employer, or for someone who supports the ANG and has no idea as to what we do.

For more information on this experience of a lifetime, please contact the Public Affairs Office at 609-754-4173 or send an email to [pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@njmccgu.af.mil).

## Simulating in Volk Field

by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz  
Wing Tips Editor

Volk Field, Wisconsin: home of one of the Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Centers (CRTC). Most of us have been there at one time or another during our Guard lives. On March 12, over 50 of the most recent attendees from wing leadership, visual information, personnel, finance, support group and transportation returned to McGuire after their weeklong exercise.

The CRTC provides an ATSO (ability to survive and operate) environment to more than 200 units per year from the

Members of the 108th ARW rush to cover a piece of flight line equipment before an imminent simulated chemical attack during an exercise at Volk Field.



Photo by Senior Airman Tracy Williams

Army and Air National Guard, Air Force and Air Force Reserves, the Marine Corps and Naval Reserves. The CRTC allows training to be conducted that cannot be accomplished at their home station to enhance their combat readiness. The facilities approximate a Forward Operating Location (FOL), and provide a realistic setting for the conduct of unit Operational Readiness Exercises and Inspections (ORE, ORI).

For approximately two months, the 108th Air Refueling Wing has been preparing for this true joint Air Force event. "True" in the sense that 108th unit members worked along side the 19th Air Refueling Group, Robbins AFB, Ga., the 319th Air Refueling Wing, Grand Forks AFB, Minn., the 927th Air Refueling Wing, McClellan AFB, Calif. and many more.

This mission, whose main function was to prepare the 108th for the on-going Inspector General Exercise (IGX) and the ORI in 2006, was based around scud and mortar attacks with as little simulation as possible and identified the areas that need better coordination ahead of time.

"The 108th leadership was able to step in and effectively operate with its' unknown players...we have never worked with the 927th ARW or the 19th ARG," said Maj. Wayne McCaughey, the Combat Training Team Chief. "This exercise showed that the 108th's ability to operate in an ATSO environment is still consistent with being *America's Best Air Refueling Wing*."

# Thunderbirds maneuver into N.J.

by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz  
*Wing Tips* Editor

From the F-84 to the F-16 the Thunderbirds have performed for more than 315 million people in all 50 states and 60 foreign countries since the unit's inception in 1953.

The mission of the Thunderbirds is to support recruiting and retention programs, reinforce public confidence, and to strengthen morale and esprit de corps among Air Force personnel. The Thunderbirds also represent the United States and its armed forces to foreign nations and project international goodwill.

The Thunderbirds squadron, with more than 27 career fields, is comprised of 12 jets, 12 officers, approximately 120 Active-duty, Air Guard and Reserve enlisted people, and four civilians. Officers serve a two-year assignment with the squadron, while enlisted personnel serve three to four years. A constant mix of experience levels is ensured with nearly one third of the squadron members replaced each year.

With over 3,850 official aerial demonstrations under their wings, the Thunderbirds will be flying into Millville, New Jersey on May 1st and 2nd and Atlantic City on August 17th and 18th. For more information on the USAF Thunderbirds and their show schedule visit [www.airforce.com/thunderbirds](http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds).



Photo by Staff Sgt. Sean M. White

## NJANG Farewell from page 1

transformed from a backup to a front line force. No war these days can be fought without us. This is much more of a commitment than many of you signed up for, and yet, you endure.

Conduct matters land on the Commander's desk. Some people do the dumbest things. While their misdeeds may have taken up a disproportionate share of my time, I kept in mind that these souls are just a tiny fraction of the entire NJANG.

And that's who I'll miss when the next drill weekend comes. I'll miss all of the patriots in the NJANG who voluntarily have accepted a higher calling, to live under a demanding code of conduct, and to defend this state and nation.

Thank you.

## Front and Center

**Name:** Daniel Vergara

**Age:** 19

**Time in service:** One year and one month

**Job in the 108th:** Refueling Maintenance (Motor Pool)

**Family:** Imelda E. Nergara and Manuel K. Vergara Jr.

**Favorite food:** General Tso's Chicken

**Favorite movie:** "The Fast and the Furious"

**Favorite Actor:** Bruce Lee

**Favorite TV show:** "MADtv"

**Favorite book:** The Bible

**Favorite music genre:** Hip hop and R&B

**Favorite sport:** Basketball

**What I do with my spare time:** Fix up my '95 Mitsubishi Eclipse

**Person I most admire:** Bruce Lee

**Dream vacation:** Hawaii

**Dream car:** Nissan Skyline

**My goal is:** To finish college

**Words to the wise:** Stuff happens, so suck it up

**Pet Peeve:** When people treat me like a little kid

**What I like most about the 108th Air Refueling Wing:** My bank account is always full

**If I were commander for the day I would:** Buy everyone lunch



Courtesy photo



# Boom Box



Photo by Master Sgt. Francisco Beltran-bell

Above: Senior Master Sgt. Paul J. Kasica (center), 108th Engineering Superintendent, posts the colors as 2nd Lt. Joseph P. Ward (left), 108th pilot trainee and Chief Master Sgt. Rocky Ryan (right), State Human Resource Advisor, take center court at the April 6 N.J. Nets basketball game. Chief Ryan re-enlisted during this ceremony that occurred minutes before tip-off.

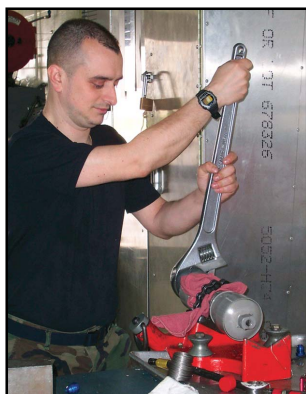


Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz

Staff Sgt. Frederick Fry, 108th Aircraft Pneudrolics Specialist, completely overhauls a hydraulic accumulator which regulates the hydraulic pressure in an engine system.



Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz

Staff Sgt. Tyrone Miller, 108th Ground Radio Communications Apprentice, tests an updated radio system to be used by organizations through out the wing.



Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz

Senior Airman Dan Vergara, 108th Special Vehicle Maintenance Journeyman, cleans and inspects a trailer kingpin.



Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz  
Staff Sgt. Jon Barnes, 108th Supply Journeyman, inventories a real-world C-1 bag for use by unit members on the next deployment.



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Knox

Senior Master Sgt. Paul J. Kasica (left), 108th Engineering Superintendent, presents a flag to Col. Michael Moore (right), 108th Support Group Commander. The flag was flown over Baghdad International Airport, Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom in honor of the 108th Air Refueling Wing.



Photo by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz  
Tech. Sgt. Chris Scott, 108th Fabrication Parachute Specialist, inspects and repacks a parachute.



# What is “EPP” all about?

by Chief Master Sgt Gene Wasielewski  
Chiefs Council President

EPP is the Exceptional Promotion Program. The goal of the EPP is to provide promotion opportunity for traditional Guard members by allowing **exceptional individuals** to attain senior NCO rank when the unit manning document (UMD) authorizations do not exist. The Exceptional Promotion Program is now a permanent program.

The following non-waiverable criteria will be used to determine eligibility for promotion consideration:

- Nominees must be traditional Guard members.
- Nominees must not be excess to unit requirements or become excess within the subsequent two years following promotion.
- Nominees must meet the minimum time-in-grade and time-in-service requirements, and be fully qualified in their Duty Air Force Specialty code at time of submission.
- Nominees cannot be promoted to a position two grades above the UMD authorization.
- Nominees must have completed the Senior Non Commissioned Officer Academy either by correspondence or in-residence.
- Nominees must be within three years of qualifying for a reserve retirement at the time of submission with 17 years of satisfactory service based on their current AF Form 526. Partial year calculations are not authorized.
- Nominees must have three years retainability prior to reaching age 60 and must agree to remain in the ANG for three years subsequent to promotion.
- Nominees must agree to be transferred to the retired reserve or be discharged on the third anniversary of the promotion, unless assigned to a valid UMD vacancy commensurate with member's grade.
- Special Duty Identifier 8F000, First Sergeants, may be considered for EPP.
- Members promoted under this program are the sole occupants of the promotion authorization.

This is a state-controlled program and allocations do not count against each state's E-8 and E-9 authorized billets. For more information, contact the 108th Chiefs Council President, Chief Master Sgt. Gene Wasielewski at 609-754-8658 or the 108th Command Chief, Chief Master Sgt. Joe Ortu at 609-754-8510.

## ASEV Results

The Standardization and Evaluation Section of the 108 Operations Group recently received high marks during the Aircrew Standardization, Evaluation and Training Visit, or ASEV, inspection. Conducted by an AMC team of 14 evaluators, the purpose of the ASEV is to ensure a trained, quality aircrew force by validating the unit's standardization/evaluation and training programs.

Over a 7-day period, aircrew performance, Stan/Eval, and training programs were reviewed. In the aircrew performance area, In-flight evaluations were performed to approximately 40 crewmembers while another 80 were given written exams. Both had test scores in the high 90's. Additionally, the Stan/Eval Administration and Manning and the Tactics sections received laudatory comments. Eight members of the staff were singled out as outstanding performers.

Although the final report will not be released for a few more weeks, the 108 ARW “has raised the bar” for other unit said Lt. Col. Joe Rohret, Air Mobility Command team chief. “You can hold your head up real high.”

He's predicting the wing will receive phone calls from other units looking to take best practices and suggestions to improve their programs. The 108th is “hitting on all cylinders,” he said.

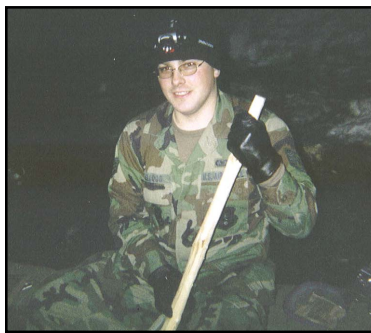
## Arctic getaway

by Senior Airman Elizabeth Sheetz  
*Wing Tips* Editor

Daytime highs nearing 30 degrees Fahrenheit and nighttime lows of 20 below zero, sound like perfect weather to you? Of course not, but your not in arctic survival training.

Staff Sgt. Eric Kellogg has been with the 108th Air Refueling Wing for six years and is a member of the Air Crew Life Support attached to the 227th Special Operations Flight. He was recently given the opportunity to experience these frigid temperatures first hand in and enjoyed it. “It was very informative, I learned a lot more than I thought I knew,” Sgt. Kellogg said.

Arctic survival training is not a required element of Kellogg's training, but



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Eric Kellogg stays warm by sitting around a fire during the field exercise portion of his arctic weather survival training.

it is a highly desired and sought after school. Only ten slots are open to the Air Force each year and out of those ten openings only one every two years is available to the Air National Guard. The

schooling, which consists of two days of academics and three days of field exercises, is meant to increase your chances of surviving in a frigid weather situation for an extended period of time.

According to Kellogg the best part about his “primitive” experience in Alaska was meeting other life support members, trapping animals, and being in the field using everything he had learned. The only drawback to his expedition was the occasional waist-high snow. Being an avid hunter in the Adirondacks, this schooling will not only come in handy for his military career, but also in his hobbies.

When asked what advice he could give future participants Kellogg said, “Bring lots of warm clothing and extra socks!”

# Chaplain's Corner

## *There is such thing as a free lunch*

by Ch, Maj, Tom Klaasen  
108 ARW Chaplain



I think we came up with a good idea! The Chapel staff was enjoying Tiffany Colby's hospitality at her new Family Readiness suite in the Wing Staff building. We began talking about Dan Brown's book, *The Da Vinci Code*, that has been so popular this past year.

I'm not sure who said it first but we all latched onto the idea that we ought to sponsor a lunchtime discussion group to talk about things like the renewed interest in Mary Magdalene. We decided together that we could combine our efforts by providing a light lunch, showing a 30 minute video, and having some time for discussion.

So, we're going to start offering these free lunches this drill, on Saturday, April 16, at 1130. We're going to show the video for discussion in the Wing Staff break room, right by Family Readiness.

The videos we'll show come from "The Teaching Company." The first series we'll show is from their "Great World Religions" series. We'll start with their series on Christianity. Here's a quote from their materials, "Christianity is the world's largest religion, with more than two billion members. But in addition to being vast and popular, it is extremely complex and often highly contradictory. Popular Teaching Company professor Luke Timothy Johnson explains why the central figures, elements, and creeds of Christianity are hard to fathom yet give Christianity its distinctive flavor."

Everyone is invited to enjoy lunch and join in the discussion! Incidentally, although Christianity will be the topic of discussion, the lunch is deliberately inter-faith, ecumenical, and non-sectarian.

## Remember when...



Courtesy photo

by Staff Sgt. John Lacomia  
108th Wing Historian

In April of 1964, the 108th Tactical Fighter Wing was the first Air Force Air National Guard Unit to fly twice the speed-of-sound. During this record-making flight the 108th TFW was flying the F-105 *Thunderchief*, later given the affectionate nickname of "Thud."

The *Thunderchief*, a supersonic tactical fighter-bomber, replaced the F-84F in 1958. The F-105B was used briefly by the USAF Thunderbirds for aerial performance, but discontinued use when one of the aircraft broke up in flight.

Only 833 *Thunderchiefs* were built and only 75 of the F-105Bs pictured above.

## Youth Space Camp

Air Force Services Family Member Programs will sponsor the second annual Space Camp Program. Fifty scholarships will be available for youths, ages 12-18, to participate in the Space Camp held in Huntsville, Ala. at the US Space and Rocket Center. This program is open to family members of Active Duty assigned to or living on an Air Force Base, Air Force Retired, Air Force Civilian Employees, Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard.

Along with the application, a letter of recommendation is required from two significant adults in the youth's life, other than their parents. Applicant must have a minimum of a 2.8 GPA to be considered, an submitted by May 7, 2004. For the application and more information please contact Karen Rudolph HQ AFSVA/SVPY at 210-652-4045.

### USAF Outstanding Airmen

Chief Master Sergeant Paul M. Gunning, State Command Chief Master Sergeant, recently announced New Jersey's nominations for the United States Air Force 12 Outstanding Airmen and Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year Award Programs.

The selections were based on criteria such as leadership and job performance in primary duties, significant self-improvement and base and community involvement. After a stringent board process the following individuals were selected:

From the 108th Air Refueling Wing, in the First Sergeant category, Senior Master Sgt. Harmon R. Glymph, in the Senior NCO category, Master Sgt. Daniel R. Knapp, and in the NCO category, Staff Sgt. Nehemie L. Juleus.

From the 177th Fighter Wing in the Airman category, Senior Airman Erin B. Leach.

Congratulations to these truly deserving Airmen!



# ANG welcomes new command chief

by Army Master Sgt. Bob Haskell  
National Guard Bureau

3/25/2004 - ARLINGTON, Va. (AFPN) —

Confident that he still has a lot to give to this country, Chief Master Sgt. Richard Smith is preparing to move from his home in rural Lexington, Ohio, to Washington to become the ninth command chief master sergeant of the Air National Guard.

"My appetite to serve is still there," said Chief Smith, 52, who on Aug. 1 will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Valerie Benton as the senior advocate for the Air National Guard's 97,000 enlisted Airmen. He will work for Lt. Gen. Daniel James III, ANG director.

Chief Smith is a traditional guardsman, who will leave his position as command chief master sergeant of the Ohio ANG to succeed Chief Benton, who has held the ANG's top enlisted position since June 7, 2001.

Chief Benton will retire after 25 consecutive years of service in the ANG and active Air Force. Chief Smith said he will begin learning the ropes of his new job when he begins working with Chief Benton in early June.

Chief Smith may be new to Washington, but he has learned plenty about the challenges Airmen encounter during their deployments worldwide.

He is chairman of the ANG's Enlisted Field Advisory Council, and he has been the command chief for the Ohio ANG since July 2000.

About 2,000 Ohio Airmen, 38 percent of that state's force, were on duty in this country and abroad a year after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Chief Smith said.

Although he has remained a traditional guardsman since enlisting in 1971, the chief has worked virtually fulltime, about 300 days a year, as Ohio's command chief, he said. That was possible because he retired after 28 years in the banking business in 1998.

"About 70 percent of our force is traditional or part-time," Chief Smith said. "I bring that perspective to this job. I'm a traditional guy, who is coming from the field. I've never been a full-timer. I understand, for example, the concerns that we have about our civilian employees."



Courtesy photo

Chief Smith served in the medical field during his first 27 years in uniform, and he was the chief of medical services for the 317th Contingency Hospital in England for the first three months of 1991.

He said he returned to Ohio in April 1991 after it was clear that the Gulf War would not result in nearly as many casualties as officials had feared.

"I was an Eagle Scout, and I taught courses in basic first aid. I couldn't get into the finance career field when I joined the Guard, so the medical field was a good alternative," Chief Smith said. "I was lucky, because it gave me the chance to do something different during drill weekends and annual training while I was working as a loan officer in a bank."

He said he believes the Air Guard's enlisted force is in solid shape, and he is impressed with the young people who are putting on blue uniforms.

"The force is the most professional it has ever been. The morale and patriotism have never been higher," the chief said. "I'm excited about the younger generation. Their enthusiasm and knowledge amazes me."

Chief Smith and his wife, Debbie, have been married for 25 years. Their son, Richie, is a senior at the U.S. Air Force Academy, Colo., and their daughter Katie is in high school.

## Bring Your Child to Work



Photo by Senior Master Sgt. Raymond Knox

It's all in a day's work for Staff Sgt. Rose Kopala, 108th Personnel Craftsman, and her daughter, Mia.

On April 22, you can bring your son and/or daughter to work. This once a year event is an excellent opportunity for the children of 108th Air Refueling Wing unit members to learn about what mom and dad do.

### New number for family assistance

Did you know that now you can reach any Family Assistance office in the NJ National Guard's Family Program by dialing one easy to remember toll free number: 888-859-0352.

With this automated number you can:

- Place morale calls (with a calling card)
- Contact any of the eight NJ ARNG Family Assistance Centers
- Contact either of the NJ ANG Family Readiness Centers
- Get information on the NJNG Teen Youth Group

# Remember Us???

by Staff Sgt. Keith Atwell  
Enlisted Council President

It's not what you can do for your Enlisted Council, but what your Enlisted Council can do for you. Listen up all E-5's and below, the Enlisted Council is back.

We know what you are saying, "Where have you been?" Well, due to past activations and an awesome wing tempo, the Enlisted Council has fallen to the back burner, but not anymore. We are rebuilt and ready with the mentality to make this wing a better place to work. We can do this by implementing new ideas and fixing old problems. Each and every voice counts! Did you know if you have an idea to make our Wing a better place to work, the Enlisted Council has a strong voice with senior leadership to make things happen? After all, we are the worker bees of the 108th, shouldn't we be heard? The only thing you have to do is speak up.

Ok, we know, enough with the sales pitch. Where is the Enlisted Council? The Enlisted Council has a meeting every Saturday of the unit training assembly

(UTA) in the wing conference room, located in the wing headquarters building, 3327, at 1p.m. We want to hear from you.

One thing we want to mention is the common misconception between the Enlisted Council and the Enlisted Association. Everyone in the Enlisted Council is a part of the Enlisted Association, which represents all the Enlisted at the State level with issues facing the entire state Army and Air National Guard members.

We are the Enlisted Council, which deals with issues primarily here in the 108th Air Refueling Wing, for E-5's and below. Don't get me wrong when I say this, we are not small potatoes. We are the representatives of the best workers of the New Jersey 108th ARW, and we can and will make a difference.

The Enlisted Council is a group that has the "can do and will do," attitude to help make our wing a better place to work and play. To all you staff sgts. and below, the Enlisted Council believes every person in the 108th ARW has a voice to make it better; however, we cannot make a difference if we do not know what to help or fix.

We are looking for representatives from each squadron to be a sounding voice for the people. If you just want to check us out, or have any questions come by one of our meetings. Come check out some of the issues we are dealing with now.

Hope to see you all sooner, than later.

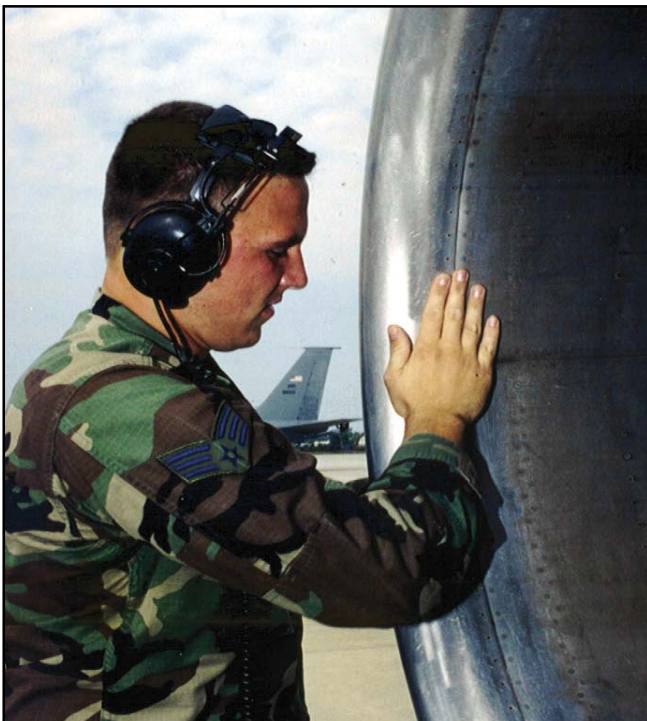
## MAD FUUN in May

May's MAD FUUN event will be a Mystery Dinner Theatre Show held at Bistro Romano Restaurant located in Philadelphia.

This is your chance to play the part, hunt for clues, and solve the crime. Be a part of the Altos family gathering as Tony, with the help of his psychiatrist, tries to find out who wanted him dead and why. Get into the spirit and who know, you could be the murderer or the victim!

The trip will take place on Saturday, May 15, 2004. The cost is \$42.95 per person. If you are interested or for more information, contact Senior Airman Dee Eggles, no later than Sunday, April 18, at 609-754-4090.

## Say what?



Courtesy photo

**Write a caption or outline for this photo. The writer with the funniest or most imaginative entry will be printed in the next issue of Wing Tips and receives a 305th Services Squadron Gold Card.**

### The rules

1. Write a comical or imaginative caption or outline.
2. All entries must be submitted by April 30, 2004. Submit your entry via e-mail to [pa.108arw@njmc.gu.af.mil](mailto:pa.108arw@njmc.gu.af.mil) or drop off your entries to the public affairs office in bldg. 3327, room 110. When submitting your entry please be sure to include your name, rank, duty section and duty phone.
3. Please limit your entries to two per person.
4. The person with the funniest or most imaginative entry will receive a 305th Services Squadron Gold Card.
5. The winner can pick up his or her prize in room 110 of bldg. 3327.